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Patent Application
Attorney Docket No. A0584-US-NP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Ralph A. Mosher, et al.
Application No.: 09/833,546
Filed: April 11, 2001
Examiner: Tamara Dicus
Art Unit: 1774
Title: Imageable Seamed Belts Having
Polyamide Adhesive Between Interlocking Seaming
Members

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

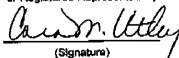
Sir:

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REPLY BRIEF

With reference to the Examiner's Answer dated April 6, 2004, Appellant continues to be of the positions as detailed in the Appeal Brief.

Appellants would like to point out that it is important that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences recognize that Fuller et al., contrary to the repeated assertions by the Examiner, does not teach an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive. Instead, as set forth on page 6 of the Appeal Brief, the reference teaches that one or more of the layers of a photoreceptor comprises an alcohol-soluble polyamide. Adhesives are listed in the reference at column 7, lines 49-55, and include polyesters, polyurethanes, and the like, and do not include alcohol-soluble polyamides.

The Examiner states in the Examiner's Answer, that Fuller et al. teaches an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive at col. 6, lines 50-59; column 8, lines 4-10; and at column 15, lines 33-36 (Examiner's Answer, page 6, lines 19-21). However, an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive is not taught at these sections. Specifically, at column 6,

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lines 50-59, the reference teaches, "If desired, an adhesive layer may be utilized between the charge blocking layer and the charge generating layer." There is no teaching at this site of an alcohol-soluble polyamide or of an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive. At column 8, lines 4-10, it is recited that polyamides may be used as the film forming binder of the charge generating binder layer. This discussion is concerning the binder in the layer itself, and is not discussing an adhesive of any kind. This discussion concerns materials that may be used in the charge generating layer. Therefore, again, there is no teaching of an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive. Column 15, lines 33-36 includes a discussion of the overcoat of the photoreceptor (see the beginning of the discussion at column 12, starting at line 18). The discussion states that "Any suitable crosslinkable hole insulating film forming alcohol soluble polyamide polymer may be employed in the overcoating of this invention." The section pointed out to by the Examiner at column 15, lines 33-36, is a continuation of the discussion of how to make the overcoat. At column 15, lines 40-53, there is a list of "hole insulating alcohol soluble polyamide film forming polymers." There is no discussion or suggestion concerning use of these alcohol-soluble materials as an adhesive. Certainly, the categorization of the alcohol-soluble polyamide as a "hole-insulating film forming alcohol soluble polyamide polymer" would not have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to use such a hole-insulating material as an adhesive, as one or more of the layers of the photoreceptors are hole-blocking or hole-insulating layers.

The Examiner points to another section of Fuller et al. and states that this section also teaches an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive. The Examiner points to column 7, lines 4-15 of Fuller et al. (Examiner's Answer, page 8, lines 7-8). However, there is no teaching of an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive at this section, or anywhere in the entire reference. At column 7, lines 4-15, the reference teaches that a substrate may comprise a layer of an electrically non-conductive or conductive material and, "As electrically non-conducting materials there may be employed various resins known for this purpose including polyesters, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyurethanes, and the like which are flexible as thin webs." Therefore, the reference at this section is referring to polyamides as likely candidates for a substrate layer material.

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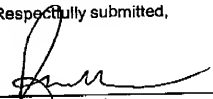
There is no mention of use of a polyamide as an adhesive at this section. There is also no mention of an alcohol-soluble polyamide at this section.

Therefore, Appellants respectfully request the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to carefully read the disclosure of Fuller et al. to discover that there is no teaching of use of an alcohol-soluble polyamide as an adhesive material between a seam.

For the reasons set forth in the Appeal Brief, including the additional arguments set forth herein, Appellant's are of the position that the claims of the present application are patentable, and accordingly, respectfully request that the Board of patent Appeals and Interferences reverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby authorized to call Annette L. Bade, Appellant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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